

FORM B - BUILDING

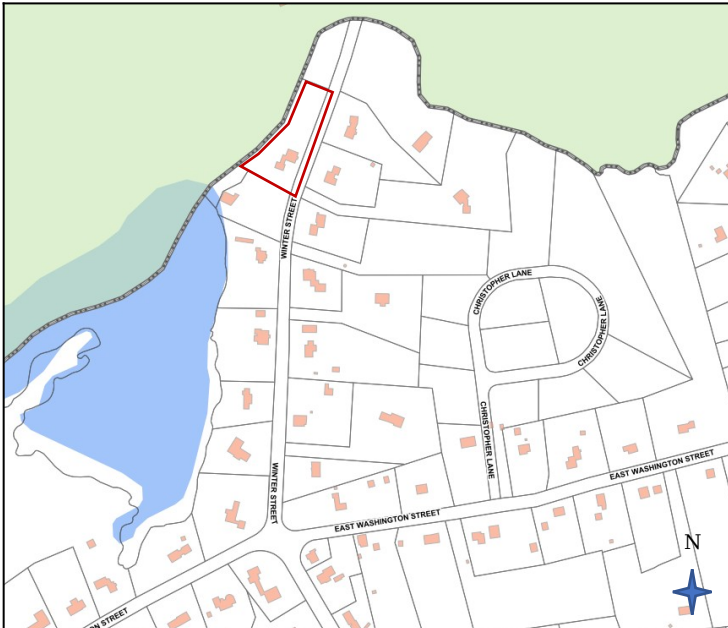
Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

114-0-10-0

Hanover

HNS.273

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 923 Winter Street

Historic Name: Thomas and Olive Stetson
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family
Residential
Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1790

Source: White's History, Plan 5, No. 32

Style/Form: Federal/Cape

Architect/Builder: George Clarence Stetson

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle, Wood
Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Wood Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Connecting
addition to west façade joining house to barn,
entry vestibule, barn alterations, and replacement
windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .95 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares with the Hanover town line to its
west and north, the property is located in a
wooded area of predominantly single-family
homes on large lots covered in grass lawns,
mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation but is
also adjacent to an apparently vacant commercial
building to the south.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house has a square footprint below a large, steeply pitched gable roof. A large, square corbeled brick chimney straddles the center of the roof ridge, while a second, shorter and much narrower chimney runs up the center of the north gable-end. The building has been extended multiple times including the projecting front entry on its east façade, a shed roofed addition to its northwest corner and an L-shaped addition to the southwest corner of its west façade which connects the house to the large, two-and-a-half story gable-end barn to the southwest of the house. Both the original house and its later additions have wood shingled gable roofs which project out in narrow, flat eaves over the gable facades below and end flush with the gable-end facades which are finished with a flat, narrow band of wood trim surrounding the pediment. The east facades of the house, additions, and barn are wood clapboard sided with painted wood trim while the north and south facades are finished in wood shingles. The double hung windows are small early or original twelve-over-twelve windows in the original house and six-over-six double hung windows in the addition and barn, all of which are now protected behind newer storm windows. These windows are set into simple wood frames with narrow projecting sills.

The house faces east towards the street and has a long east façade with two small, twelve-over-twelve double hung windows located just below the cornice to either side of the projecting center entrance. The hip roof of the entry porch extends out beyond its three facades with short, exposed rafter tails visible below the eaves on each side. While the south and north facades of the entrance are wood clapboard sided, the east façade is finished with wood panels. Narrow pilasters run up the outer edges of the facade and surround the door, extending up through the wide cornice over the entrance. To either side of the door is a four paned sidelight over a long raised wood panel. The door is a solid wood door set behind a fifteen pane storm door. The entrance opens onto a wide granite landing and stone path leading to an opening in the wood picket fence along the street.

The wide south gable-end façade has two windows centered in its gable-end. On the first floor, a side entrance is located to the left of center below a shallow, hip roofed entrance hood with a wide, flat cornice and decorative bracket supports. A narrow divided light transom is located above the solid wood door and its contemporary metal storm door. A double hung window is located to either side of the entrance. The L-shaped addition on the west façade is flush with the south gable-end but its own south façade is short and largely taken up by a six-over-six double hung window set up under the eaves of the one-story addition. The addition then turns to the south, where a second side entrance, also behind a metal storm door, and two six-over-six double hung windows face east towards the street. This addition runs south into the north façade of the former barn.

The first floor of the much larger, two-and-a-half story, barn is set back on its east façade, and the second floor is supported by tall but narrow wood posts. A single window is located in the pediment over two windows on its second floor. In the recessed first floor, a pair of side-by-side early twentieth century garage doors with large six-paned windows is located in the left corner of the east façade. A double hung window is located to the right of the door, and a solid wood pedestrian door is located in the right corner. Both the north and south facades of the projecting second floor have trim details which suggest that the projecting space was added at a later date. On the south façade, three double hung windows line the first floor and a solid wood door is hidden behind an evergreen in the southeast corner of the façade. The north façade provides the clearest impression of an

Continuation sheet 3

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extended second floor with trim running up the wall that is in line with the recessed first floor. A window is also located in the northwest corner of the façade over the addition.

The north gable-end of the original house has two windows in the gable-end surrounding the exterior chimney and one window on each end of the first floor. The north façade of the shed roofed addition to the west façade is flush with the north gable-end of the main house, and the trim of the gable-end stops short to extend out over the shed roof. This addition appears to be a sunroom and has three double hung windows lined up in the upper half of each wall over a shingled lower half.

The house is located close to the street on a site which slopes down to the west and north. The house is surrounded by open grass lawn with mature trees surrounding the property to the north, south and west. Foundation plantings and bushes surround the east and south facades of the house, and a low wood picket fence runs along the road in front of the house. To the south of the house, an asphalt driveway surrounded by dirt parking areas leads to the barn. To the south of the driveway is a second short section of wood picket fencing which ends at a fieldstone retaining wall running along the south property line.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, this house was constructed by Thomas Stetson (1741-1821) in 1790. Thomas married Olive Mann in Hanover in 1772 and the couple lived here with their five children, including son Eli Stetson who was born in the house in 1794. White believed that the house was redone around 1830 before Thomas's marriage to his second wife but here he appears to have confused Thomas Stetson with his son, Eli Stetson. Eli Stetson inherited the house after his father's death while his brother, also Thomas Stetson, lived across Winter Street with his wife Betsey Studly of Hanover who he had married in 1801. Eli Stetson (1794-1866) married Harriet Josselyn of Hanson in 1822 and after her death, married Mrs. Lucy Holmes Thomas in 1829. This timing coincides with White's statement that the house was renovated around 1830 for a second marriage. Eli is listed in federal census records as a millwright, and the house appears to have been connected to the cotton and woolen mill just to the south and may have been the "factory dwelling house" noted in deeds for neighboring properties, although this reference was not found in any records relating directly to this site.¹ Both the 1830 Smith Plan and 1856 Walling Map show E. Stetson as the owner of the property.

After Eli Stetson's death in 1866, the property passed to his son, George Eli Stetson (1831-1877). George is listed on the 1870 U.S. Census as a shoemaker and is shown living there with his mother, Lucy Stetson, as well as his wife, Millie K. Stetson (formerly Millicent K. Beaser who he had married in 1857) and son George C. Stetson. In 1883 George sold the property to Joseph White, but after George's death a few years later, Millie purchased the property back from Joseph White in 1896 and is listed as the owner of the property on the 1903 Richards Atlas. She and her son George C., who worked as a laborer at the neighboring tack factory, lived in the property until her death in 1921. George C. (1858-1934) had married Olive Mason in 1881 but she appears to have died sometime shortly thereafter and George did not remarry. George is listed in the 1930 U.S. Census as a resident of the hospital in Hanson, and it is unclear whether he sold the property or it transferred to another relative after his death. By 1930, the property had come into the hands of Mary K. Austin of Boston, who sold it that same year to Percy and Agnes B. Wood.² Percy Wood was a stockbroker according to the 1940 U.S. Census, and the couple appear to have lived in the house from 1930 to 1944, when they sold the property to Lewis N. Goodwin of Whitman. Lewis ran a public garage where his son, Frank, worked as a mechanic. The Goodwins remained in the house for over forty years. After Lewis' death, the house passed to his daughter, Doris Linke of

¹ See Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 161, Page 181 for reference

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1600, Page 374

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Lajolla, CA, who sold it to Dianne Howard in 1991. Dianne Howard later married Paul Nichol, and the couple has jointly owned the house since 2000.³

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³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book18497, Page 256

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The ca. 1790 Cape style house is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite over two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive architectural character of late eighteenth century construction and illustrates how these homes were expanded and adapted over time to meet the changing needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.